

October 2012

Consumer Focus Groups Behavioral Health Integration Project (BHIP)

Purpose:

BHIP will work in partnership with behavioral health provider organizations to facilitate focus groups involving consumers of mental health and substance use treatment services. These focus groups seek to solicit consumer opinions on the role of the state health information exchange and proposed changes to the Illinois mental health confidentiality act.

Process:

Each focus group will run approximately one hour and involve 7 – 10 consumers. The first 20 minutes of the focus group will include a presentation on the Illinois Health Information Exchange (ILHIE) and changes to the Illinois Mental Health and Development Disabilities Confidentiality Act. The remaining 40 minutes of the focus group will be spent on engaging consumers in a dialogue on their thoughts about the ILHIE and proposed statutory changes.

About BHIP:

The Illinois Behavioral Health Integration Project (BHIP) works to develop the legal and operational framework necessary to protect confidentiality while helping to facilitate data exchange among behavioral health and medical providers. The project engages the behavioral health provider community and convenes legal experts, statewide associations and individual consumers to build this framework and test it in several demonstration sites throughout the state.

Illinois' BHIP is a joint effort of the Illinois Office of Health Information Technology, the Department of Human Services and the Department of Healthcare and Family Services, with active support and participation from dozens of behavioral health and medical care organizations throughout the state. Illinois is one of five states selected for this national initiative, which is funded from SAMHSA/HRSA, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and administered by the National Council of Community Behavioral Healthcare.

For more information about BHIP and the focus groups, please visit contact Dia Cirillo, Behavioral Health Project Director at dia.cirillo@illinois.gov.